

**Information for NIH Intramural Investigators:
Notice of NIH Guidelines Compliance and Recent Changes**

May 28, 2002

National Institutes of Health [Office of Biotechnology Activities](#)

NIH intramural investigators are reminded that they must adhere to the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules (NIH Guidelines) when they perform research involving recombinant DNA. Adherence to the NIH Guidelines is mandatory and important because they stipulate biosafety and containment measures for recombinant DNA research. Furthermore, they delineate critical ethical principles and outline key safety reporting requirements for human gene transfer research. A fully indexed, hyperlinked copy of the NIH Guidelines can be viewed on line or downloaded at: <http://www4.od.nih.gov/oba/rac/guidelines/guidelines.html>

Reporting safety information from human trials - NIH intramural investigators conducting human gene transfer research must comply with [Appendix M](#) of that document. Appendix M outlines points to consider in the design and submission of these protocols to OBA. Reporting serious adverse events and other safety information is a key aspect of compliance with that Appendix. The scope and timing of safety reports were recently modified to be harmonized with those of the FDA, and now the same information can be reported to both agencies on the same schedule. Investigators conducting human gene transfer research subject to the NIH Guidelines must report in an expedited manner those serious adverse events that are unexpected and possibly associated with the gene transfer product. These reports should be sent to OBA and the NIH Institutional Biosafety Committee (through the Safety Operations Section in the Division of Occupational Health and Safety (forms available by calling Ext. 6-2346) within 15 calendar days of sponsor notification, unless the event was life-threatening or fatal, in which case, it should be reported within 7 calendar days. All other serious adverse events should be reported on an annual basis. More information about these requirements can be found at:
http://www4.od.nih.gov/oba/rac/guidelines_02/Appendix_M.htm#_Toc7255842

Investigators and administrators are encouraged to contact Safety Operations Section in the Division of Occupational Health and Safety (Ext. 6-2346), their [Safety and Health Specialist](#) or OBA with any questions they may have about these and other requirements. Questions for OBA can be directed to:

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